Welland Transit stays the course

Plans to eliminate route from St. Catharines to Welland campus fall through

By STEPHANIE AZEVEDO
Staff Writer

As of Jan. 3, you may have noticed a change in your transit system. Rumours of the St. Catharines downtown terminal to Welland campus bus service being cancelled were true, but plans to cancel the route fell through because of contract issues with Brock University, according to Student Administrative Council (SAC) President Brian Costantini.

The original plan would have had students catching the bus to the Welland campus from Brock University. The buses are provided by the Welland Transit system.

In place of the St. Catharines route, the Welland Transit to Brock schedule was to change, providing better coverage (almost one bus per hour to 6 p.m.) for St. Catharines and Thorold students. This would have been similar to the Welland Transit schedule students had last year, before it was altered.

In order to provide better coverage for the students from Thorold or for Niagara College students heading to the student housing on Glenridge, two additional buses have been added to the Welland to Brock route, one leaving Niagara College at 9:27 a.m. and another leaving at 10:27 a.m.

Costantini says that SAC was terminating the Welland campus contract with St. Catharines Transit because of complaints from both Brock University and Niagara College Welland campus students about gaps in transit coverage, some of them up to three hours long.

“It’s the age-old tale of you’ve got it and you’d hate to lose it,” says Sebastian Prins, vice-president of finance administration for Brock University Students’ Union (BUSA), adding, “Students had a similar service last year, and they wanted it back.”

Prins mentions similar complaints Brock University students have with the service, such as gaps in service times, a reduction in service and four-hour gaps, “making it really inconvenient” for students.

“This will not affect the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus transit that runs from St. Catharines. Overlapping transit runs in which Welland and St. Catharines buses ran to the Welland campus at similar times were creating these gaps. The average cost-per-run to each city is approximately $30,000 per year, making the total SAC budget for student transit about $1.1 million.”

Brock University’s budget for busing is “almost $2 million,” says Prins, adding “$98,000 of it goes to funding eight bus runs to [Niagara College in] Welland.”

“This year we were really over budget,” says Costantini. He added that SAC was not intending to change the transit system to save money, although there would have been some savings.

“Welland’s cost-per-hour is a little less [than the St. Catharines Transit]. The extra bit of money saved would have helped to alleviate the growing deficit in SAC’s transit budget. “We had to increase the UPASS fee $1 per semester. Over the last few years, the transit companies had been increasing their fees five per cent.”

The current cost of a student UPASS is $66 a semester for Niagara College students while Brock University students pay $80 a semester.

Costantini says if students have concerns with the transit system, they should let him know about it.

“If it is not brought to my attention there is nothing I can do about it.”

Costantini had to deal with bus schedules at the beginning of his semester and “had to put up with one or two runs in the summer.”

“Because of this experience, he says he knows the difficulties of dealing with the buses. He says when there are issues with space on the bus, such as when students are left behind to wait for another bus because the current one is full, they should call him.

“If you are experiencing difficulties, call us up, because it might be a miscommunication.” He also says in the past he has had those students who were left behind picked up before the next bus. To reach Costantini, call 905-718-2211 ext. 7256 or email him at sacpres@niagaracollege.ca.

Welland College students arrive at the Welland campus aboard the Welland-St. Catharines Connection. Photo by John Gamba
New year, new faces at Niagara College
Frosh Week rounds out with concert and contests for new students

By JANELLE NYSTROM
Staff Writer

It was Frosh Week at Niagara College, and enrolment was on the rise. Frosh Posh, music and a free lunch put smiles on faces at the 2011 January-start orientation at Niagara College.

The frosh week events wrapped up Friday, Jan. 7, with a return performance by The Stables, a group of musicians from Oshawa, Ont.

“Glad to be back,” says Poor Pelly.

The musical rhythms of Poor Pelly, Blind Billy Blasko, Darren and Choo Choo Clarke of The Stables, a folk/bluegrass group, echoed throughout the halls of Niagara College on Jan. 6 and 7, following Niagara College’s program information sessions for students beginning programs in January.

Offering new students an excellent opportunity to meet with their faculty before the first day of classes, Frosh Week at Niagara College was filled with excitement as newcomers and returning alumni took part in the day’s events.

At informal program information sessions, students gained insight into what to expect from their program and each of their classes. Hearing from current students about their experiences, having the opportunity to ask questions and having the chance to connect with fellow students who are new to the program gave new students a chance to settle in.

Carly Root, an on-campus recruitment co-ordinator for Niagara College, handed out Frosh Posh free giveaways for Orientation Week with Niagara College Student Ambassadors Kourtney Snow and Jaclyn Tanguay.

“Niagara College has a strong reputation for student success and a strong reputation for student success, says International Admissions Officer, Linda Hales.

Gordon Hunchuck, director of marketing communications, says in a recent press release, “Most Niagara College programs offer accelerated January start formats with semesters running into the summer. The winter semester also provides another intake for many competitive programs, offering flexibility to students upgrading their pre-admission requirements.”

Extra studying can pay off in more ways than one

Peer tutors earn minimum wage for their services

By SARAH PENTZ
Staff Writer

If you have an 80 per cent or higher academic average in any of your courses, why not use your skills to assist other students through peer tutoring? Many students who are struggling in their studies often turn to a peer tutor for assistance.

A peer tutor is anyone who is in a similar program as the person being tutored and is willing to help another student raise his or her grade average.

Through peer tutoring, a student who has done extremely well in a course helps a student who is struggling with that same course.

Students who are confused or who have failed an assignment or are not meeting graduating requirements have the option of getting a peer tutor.

By becoming a tutor, you can make some extra spending money and help a fellow student, all while keeping up to date with your own studies.

Josie Tremonte, of the Peer Services department at Niagara College, says peer tutors earn minimum wage.

“Peer tutors make the same amount as minimum wage, which is $10.25 per hour, working up to 12 hours per week.”

To become one, the student is required to fill out a tutor’s application form and agree to the tutor agreement. You can find these forms in the peer services office at the Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland campuses.

Just like any other paying job, there are requirements.

Tremonte says to be a peer tutor you must have a minimum average of 80 per cent in the course you desire to tutor, be registered as a full-time student and be taking at least 60 per cent of your course load.

For more information on becoming a peer tutor at Niagara College, you can visit http://www.niagaracollege.ca/tutor.
Prime Minister visits Welland

By CHRISTOPHER FORTIER
Staf Writer

Celebrating volunteerism is now a national idea. Prime Minister Stephen Harper came to the Welland Lions’ Club on Jan. 7 to unveil a new program that recognizes the hard work of Canada’s volunteers.

“The are the unsung heroes of Canada from coast to coast to coast who quietly help build up our communities and make our country great,” says Harper. “Volunteerism should not be a totally thankless task. Today, I am announcing a new program that will give outstanding volunteers the recognition they deserve.”

The awards were created as a way to recognize the efforts of Canadians who work to make a difference in the lives of others. In total, 17 awards will be given across the country.

Three will be given in five different Canadian regions: Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies, British Columbia and Northern Canada.

The awards for each region will be given in three categories. The Community Leader Award will go to individuals or groups that act as a catalyst to develop solutions to local problems. The Business Leader Award will be given to private sector recipients who demonstrate social responsibility by utilizing resources and/or developing partnerships with organizations to help address social issues.

The third, the Social Innovator Award, will be awarded to a person in the not-for-profit sector who develops new approaches or ideas to address social challenges. The final two awards will be national ones.

One is given to recognize a lifelong achievement in volunteerism, and the other is to be given to a young adult. “Our objective is to raise the profile of volunteers and to encourage others to become volunteers and to help create a generous and caring nation,” says Harper. “These awards will capture the diverse range of work volunteers do from sea to sea.”

Regional award winners will receive a $5,000 grant for the not-for-profit organization of their choice, while the national award winners receive $10,000 for their organization of choice.

Nominations will begin in April 2011 during Canada’s National Volunteer Week. Recipients will be recognized at an awards ceremony in December.

“All across Canada, volunteers are the backbone of community life.” — Stephen Harper

Copy of photo

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks to those in attendance at the Lions’ Club in Welland about the Prime Minister’s Awards for Volunteerism.

“Your going to have to dress the part and bundle up.” — Simon Kooter

By SAM CINO
Staff Writer

The holidays may be over, but, baby, it’s cold outside.

Layers are the key to staying warm during the winter season, and Simon Kooter, owner of the Niagara Quartermaster army surplus store in St. Catharines, has just what you need to keep the cold out and the heat in.

“You’re going to have to dress the part and bundle up,” he says. “You start with your base layer. This goes against your skin and can be anything from a plain T-shirt to a thermal shirt to polypropylene, which wicks sweat from you.”

Kooter is a licensed retailer for Condor, an outdoor-focused company, which also manufactures military items such as holsters and pouches.

For the second layer, Kooter recommends a soft fleece, which is better suited for spring and fall, not snow.

He personally uses the Condor Base II, which breathes but still keeps you warm, but it’s “not for outside,” unless you are going to keep active to hold the heat in.

It is constructed from 95 per cent polypropylene and five per cent spandex to give it the stretch it would need while participating in physical activity.

“Make sure you can get a model that has armpit zippers for ventilation, or you are going to be very hot,” he says, with emphasis.

On the topic of zippers, models with plastic membranes on the zippers are also sought after.

When closed, the membrane seals against itself so water cannot penetrate through the zipper area.

Anti-microbial linings are an excellent feature as well, as they eliminate the germs left behind after wearing and sweating into the material over time.

Kooter stresses the need for proper headwear, as the head is said to be the area for most heat loss. Hats should be thick and made of a good quality material.

Condor, an outdoor-focused company, which also manufactures military items such as holsters and pouches.

The layer process is essentially the same for your pants and socks,” he says. “It is all going to depend on your situation and what the weather dictates.”

With a few months of winter left, there is still plenty of time for people to face cold, harsh weather, and it’s not too late to stock up on clothing to keep you warm.

Kooter and the Niagara Quartermaster are located at 622 Welland Ave. in St. Catharines, and the store can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

“Hats should be thick and made of a good quality material.” — Simon Kooter

Copy of photo

Simon Kooter shows some softshell jackets made by Condor. The jacket comes in green, black and tan and is best suited for spring and fall temperatures.

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You know the drill; at least you should.

Jared Lee Loughner is a name previously known by the average man on the street. Today it is as numerous as the likes of Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth. For those who many not know him, Loughner is the man accused of shooting Gabrielle Giffords, a Democratic member of the House of Representatives, representing Arizona’s 8th Congressional district. On Jan. 8, Loughner shot Giffords in the head outside a supermarket where she was speaking at a constituent’s meeting. He also shot 19 other people, killing six.

Giffords, who was initially thought to have been killed, survived the incident and is recovering. The Arizona shooting reminded America and the world how fragile human life is and how easy it is to take. Though exercises are undertaken to prevent and control such occurrences, these acts of violence may not be able to be stopped. This, however, doesn’t mean that we should try.

Niagara College has yet to carry out a lock-down drill to enlighten students on the actions they should take should such an event occur on campus. One drill set for the summer was cancelled, presumably to avoid creating a situation where the entire student population was back in classes. The fall drill, however, was not carried out either, for unknown reasons. It is, therefore, safe to say that we know little to nothing about how we should react as a college to the threat of gun or knife violence on our campuses. If something along the lines of the Arizona shooting happened, the college would probably be thrown into disarray, with several lives lost.

It is human nature to procrastinate until there has been pressure from external forces beyond our control. Students do homework on the last day in fear of being repri-manded on Monday, and our college seems to be putting off essential drills until someone is shot. Prevention is better than cure, and if that is the price to pay for a higher level of security, I doubt the college will find anyone willing to pay it.

ANTON MWEWA

Something wiki this way comes, so get ready

In today’s desensitized world, we were shocked to hear of our government’s secrets when they were released to the Internet by news-based website WikiLeaks.

WikiLeaks, founded by Dutch computer-hacker Julian Assange in 2007, has made its goal to be one of the only truly anonymous outlets for those who have leaked information and would like to get it out there without revealing who they are or how the information was obtained. With huge amounts of documents being released in the Iraqi War logs and now another 250,000 U.S. embassy diplomatic cables, WikiLeaks is now responsible for the biggest release of images of confidential material in the history of mankind.

In addition to the written leaks, video was also released containing U.S. military helicopter personnel attacking what were later identified as civilians.

In today’s world of freedom and journalistic responsibility, where do we draw the line?

When do we stop?

What is really off limits?

Do we need this outlet or should we continue with what we know?

Clearly, stealing the information or even just releasing it without permission is wrong in the sense that it can be delicate information or it can put lives at risk, but without these outlets, who is there to question the decision makers?

Without the Internet, we are still left to be told what news is by whoever owns the corporation and is behind the publishing.

Though we have traditionally trusted these sources to cover what’s important, we now have access to what is now called citizen journalism.

Bloggers or citizen news gatherers can give their two cents, valid or not.

I have not generally supported these bloggers. I can, however, see the value in their ability to speak without limitations or obvious bias. It’s incidents like those that have led to people, like Assange, taking the news into their own hands and revealing what is out there.

You can take or leave this information, believe it or not.

But you can’t deny the change it has had on our view of not only what is news, but what we are actually shown by our “trusted” sources.

WikiLeaks may not always be careful in what it’s doing, but in today’s society, I believe its services have become a necessity.

JEFF CARTER
Columnist
Some people jump out of airplanes. Others climb mountains. I prefer running half naked into an overcrowded diner. My sister’s greasy post-drinking breakfast at New Year’s Day 2010 came rolling in, and I was choking down a large helping of it.

"Yes, mother," I say. "You want to come and spot me today? I am doing the Polar Bear Dip," she says. The spotter hands the dipper a towel so the dippers don’t freeze to death. I told her I would love to, but I was too hung over. There was no way I was driving to Oakville.

"How about this?" I say. "Next year, I will join you.

New Year’s Day 2010 came quickly. It was a gray, snowy, below-freezing day. With a duffle bag packed with towels and dry clothes and a mind filled with excitement and uncertainty, I made the drive to Oakville.

Mom was waiting for me. I registered for the event and got a costume – and they were all waiting to get into the cold waters of Lake Ontario. Finally, five minutes before 2 p.m. the first hundred or so participants were allowed to enter the beach area to prepare. I took off the warm hat, robe, jacket and sweats I was wearing, and my mom did the same.

Shorts and a T-shirt on Jan. 1! I must be nuts.

We advanced to the shoreline and the countdown began. "Three, two, one," all the dippers shouted, and with a ring of a bell we ran into the frigid water. Exhilarating. Cold. Absolutely insane.

It’s a tradition now. My mom and I indulged again this year, and it is a great experience. I have decided to keep it going and will keep doing it every year I can.

Instead of reaching for the Tylenol on New Year’s Day, I will reach for my towel.

A solution for the resolution

Staying committed to better decisions

Exercise more, eat well, stop all bad habits, rinse and repeat.

Every year we have the same New Year’s resolutions, and every year by mid-February, we’re back to our old habits.

Whether it is exercising more, quitting smoking or leaving sugar products behind in 2010, they all end up as things we tried to do for a while, and as 2012 comes closer, the same resolutions come rolling around again.

How do we stop the cycle? It seems to be a simple question with an easy answer: follow through with your resolutions. Things are never as simple as they seem. Life seems to get in the way of making these resolutions.

For me, I always say I’m going to start working out on a regular basis. It starts off well, I work out every day for a few months and then I get sick or go away or some change happens in my routine and I’m back to square one. My solution? I’ve decided not to make a routine or say I’m going to exercise more.

Instead, I’m going to say, “I’m going to make healthier choices” and walk and exercise whenever I have spare time in this busy life.

The New Year always seems to be the time to move on from the past, make better decisions and have a clean slate to start over.

Sometimes we will make the same mistakes, fall back into the same routines and have to start over, but that’s OK.

This year when mid-February comes around and you feel yourself slipping, try to stick with it. If you can’t, well, there’s always next year.

Emergency room wait is a real pain

Recently, I wrote about someone nearly hitting me with her car at the college because of her unsafe driving.

I guess someone wanted to give me the easy answer: follow the same resolutions come rolling around again.

So many people – children, older folks and crazier people dressed in so many people – children, older folks and crazier people dressed in New Year’s resolutions, and every year by mid-February, we’re back to our old habits.

Every year we have the same New Year’s resolutions, and every year by mid-February, we’re back to our old habits.

Whether it is exercising more, quitting smoking or leaving sugar products behind in 2010, they all

Donna MacLean, 47, of Niagara Falls, and her daughter Shaylene Abbey, 29, of Niagara Falls, take part in this year’s Courage Brothers Polar Bear Dip for World Vision on Jan. 1, 2011. The event is held annually at Coronation Park in Oakville, Ont.
New teaching ideas for literacy

By KRISTA ASHFORD
Staff Writer

Video games aren’t just for shooting zombies anymore. The Pepsi-sponsored Refresh Everything project is looking for new and innovative ideas that could win corporate sponsorship. The categories range from educational video games that focuses on literacy, to an online component, making it accessible to a wider audience. On the website, Johnson says, “Although many literacy projects exist for reading, this is the one that addresses the writing component!”

He shoots, he scores for local charities

Canadians love hockey, so what better reason to play hockey than to prevent homelessness?

On Feb. 5, the Niagara Region is hosting a ball-hockey tournament to help raise funds for local agencies working to prevent homelessness in the region.

"The event takes place at the Niagara Region Headquarters, 2201 St. David’s Rd. in Thorold, and guarantees participants at least three 15-minute games. The cost is $20 for each adult and $15 for youth. Those pledging more than $20 receive a tax receipt."

The event is hosted by the Niagara Region, in co-operation with Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold. Project SHARE, Port Cares, Grimsby Affordable Housing Partnership and The Hope Centre.

Those teams who are interested can register at www.niagararegion.ca. For more information, call 905-984-6900 or 1-800-263-7215 ext. 3809.

The winter woes

Dealing with Seasonal Affective Disorder

By KAYLA CABRAL
Staff Writer

Some call it winter blues, while others will tell you they’re feeling down. Either way, the correct term for this feeling is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Although it is most common in the winter months, people have been known to get the same feelings during the summer. The main cause of SAD is the lack of light. In the winter months there is less light, so people are more inclined to stay indoors, reducing the amount of vitamins in their system.

Christine Philbrick, a nurse at the Niagara-on-the-Lake college campus, says, “The decrease in sunlight can disrupt an individual’s internal clock.” She says symptoms are “similar to depression.” Irritability, tiredness, difficulties with school and generalized feelings of sadness are what students may feel.

“Students are inside a lot so they are getting less exposure to sunlight, which is proven to be a main factor.”

Research in Ontario suggests that between two and three percent of the general population may have SAD. It can affect children and teenagers, but it tends to begin in people over the age of 20. The risk of SAD decreases with age and is more common in women than in men.

Philbrick suggests making your environment bright, open windows and make the effort to go outside everyday no matter the weather. “Exercise is helpful for mood elevations too. It gets you outside.” Donna Putman, a counsellor at the Welland campus, says Canadians are prone to SAD because “we get more darkness.”

“We lose our light starting in late October and it changes how we process it [light].”

She says there are two types of therapies for people who experience SAD: medical, which involves light therapy and medications, and personal, which involves using your everyday resources to make a routine to help yourself.

“How is it complicating your life, and what resources do you have to fix it?”

She says by “going outside, exercising, changing thoughts, working on routines to make sure you keep your life moving forward and not losing anything even though you’re feeling some kind of this disorder” can help relieve you of the stress and feelings of depression.

“Students feel things just aren’t working well.” Words they use are “overwhelmed”, “feeling low,” and “no motivation.” Students are stressed with their personal lives, school assignments and exams, and this stress can sometimes turn into a cycle that then turns into SAD. It can come on gradually, or you can feel it all at once.

Either way there are different things you can do to prevent it or fix it.

Making a routine for yourself is one, as are doing things to keep yourself moving and going outside to get some fresh air.

“There’s no quick answer. You need to work through it,” says Putman.

For more information, visit the nurses or counsellors at each campus or visit your family doctor.
Many hands get busy renovating

Fort Erie’s Salvation Army gets a much needed remodel

By ANTON MWEWEA
and SHAWN SMITH
Staff Writers

Many hands make light work, and the Many Hands Project of Niagara College broke ground at the Salvation Army in Fort Erie on Jan. 14 as part of its annual renovation project.

Shelley Staffo, co-ordinator of the Event Management Graduate Certificate program and faculty adviser to the project, says, “Many Hands has become a great Niagara College tradition that assists agencies and organizations in the area to improve or expand their services.”

Thirteen renovations have been undertaken since the project began in 1998.

In 2011, the Salvation Army of Fort Erie was selected. Donna Patterson, Community and Family Service manager of the Salvation Army in Fort Erie, says she was “thrilled” about her organization being selected.

“Someone actually make a difference,” says Patterson. “That is what the students will be doing: making a difference in the community.”

Gary Dolch, a professor of Construction Studies at Niagara College, says the program used to be a one-day event with 150 participants but has expanded into an entire course.

“The students gain two things by taking part in this project: the first is the hands-on experience outside of the classroom, the second is the community outreach involved,” Dolch says. “Hopefully, students will continue to take part in voluntary work after they graduate.”

The Many Hands Project is a hands-on component of Niagara College’s Event Management Graduate Certificate program. As part of the project, students plan, develop, co-ordinate and ultimately execute a renovation of a non-profit organization’s facility in their community.

Several hands-on projects are part of the McGuire Program, which is a service-learning component of the course. Complementary works such as fundraising, volunteer management, and hospitality are the responsibility of the students. The changes in Fort Erie will be undertaken over a 14-week period and involve the transformation of a back room into a food bank, and the main room into a drop-in centre for local youth.

“We are working on a new kitchen area, there is plumbing, flooring, there is design, kitchen work. You name it, they’re doing it,” says Patterson.

Steve Schroeder, 21, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, is one of the students participating in the project. He says he’s excited to take part in the project and is happy to help in the community.

“It’s nice to get experience outside of the classroom. I hope to gain a lot of hands-on knowledge.”

Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin says the town has “great” volunteers that always come to the aid of those in need.

“This [renovation] is going to provide the services that are needed within the town. This is going to make it a much more comfortable place to live, so people don’t feel like they are walking into an institution. They’re coming into a home.”

For those who would like to show their support, the Salvation Army of Fort Erie is in the running for the Pepsi Refresh Project, a community-geared initiative that will award a $10,000 grant to an idea that receives the most votes.

To vote for the Many Hands Project, please visit refresheverything.ca/manyhands.

Lego engineers challenged to build robots

By NOKNOY XAYASANE
Staff Writer

Niagara College was bombard- ed with engineers on Dec. 4. Their challenge was to conduct research and build a Lego Mindstorms robot for the 2010 For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology First Lego League Body Forward Challenge.

These are not typical engineers. Local children aged nine to 14 arrived at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus representing their teams with matching jerseys. The youngsters competed head-to-head in the Challenge.

It explores one of the most relevant topics today: how engineering mixes with traditional biological and medical sciences to advance health care.

The teams explored the world of biomedical engineering and discovered innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions and maximize the body’s potential. These challenges include bone repair, rapid blood screening, pacemakers, nerve mapping, bionic eyes and object control through thought.

The 9 a.m. opening ceremony was followed by a Champion-ship Tournament at 2 p.m. and an awards ceremony at 3:45 p.m. The Champion Award goes to the most prestigious team that demonstrates the core values, design, performance and co-operation. It went to the Guardian Angels Robot Force 2010 (Garf10) of Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School in Waterdown, Ont.

The engineers of Garf10 were Sarah Alderson, 12, Ethan Brandt, 12, Jens VanDenberg, 12, Brendan Henderson, 14, Noah Linton, 12, and Nathan Homerski, 12.

Garf10 will be representing the Niagara Region at the Provincial competition.

“I can’t believe it! It’s awesome! Nathaniel won’t believe it!” says Jens VanDenberg, 12, about the team’s win and about his missing teammate, Nathan Homerski, who was absent.

Mentor Ben Alderson, 14, says he couldn’t pick which he liked most. “All of it was my favourite.”

Alderson says about his peers, “It wasn’t hard mentoring [Garf10] because we are all friends.”
Singer puts soul behind songs

By TONY KARAN
Staff Writer

A talented student from Welland is spreading his creative abilities within Guelph.

Jordan Raycroft, 19, started to take his music career seriously when he moved away from home to attend the University of Guelph.

“I always sang, whether it was in church or just around the house, but I never really pursued it,” he says.

Raycroft comes from a musical family, and he says his muses is a “phenomenal singer.”

His sister, Nadia Raycroft, 17, says he’s good at what he does and it is “cool” that he says his mom is a “phenomenal singer.”

Raycroft taught himself how to play the guitar and would practice in his spare time while away at school.

At this time he would also write music. The first song he wrote was called “Glory Days.”

“I wrote about stuff that is going on around me and in my life, but it’s almost like it’s embedded,” Raycroft says he feels “really strongly” against the child sex trade.

He wrote a song about the negative subject called “Glory.”

Raycroft had asked his friend Really Mc-Home to take photos of him that he could use for his musical profiles on his website.

“It didn’t take too much for me to accept (taking photos for him). He’s a good friend of mine,” says McHome, 17, of Welland.

Raycroft’s first show opened last March for Canadian musician Peter Katz.

Since then he has done a majority of his performances in Guelph, as well as playing in the Niagara region, Toronto and in Hamilton.

Michael Boyd, 19, says, “His music is simple, but it moves you when listening to it.”

Raycroft says he enjoys telling the stories behind his songs before he begins to play them because it makes the songs more relatable.

“People will also talk to him after his shows and tell him their stories or feelings about his songs.”

Raycroft has shows up at The Common Plea in Hamilton on Jan. 17 and at The Youth Arts Centre in Welland on Jan. 28.

Raycroft says, “When I perform my songs I put my soul behind them and get really into it.”

For more information about Raycroft and his music go to www.myspace.com/jordanraycroftmusic.

DJ and producer fascinated by sound

By ANTON MWEWA
Staff Writer

Singer Jordan Raycroft

SINGER/SONGWRITER

By ANTON MWEWA
Staff Writer

Singer/songwriter Jordan Raycroft.

Welland natives turn passion into success

Welland natives turn passion into success

Mason’s remixes of a song by a famous DJ

By ANTON MWEWA
Staff Writer

The song was played in several famous DJ’s live sets, as well as on an AM radio show in Van Dooren’s identity radio show.

In mid-2010, Mason founded Helion Tide Studios, a business that offers audio mastering and promotion. The studio, dubbed by Mason as “a bedroom-in-my-parents’-house-converted-into-a-studio,” helped him take his music to the next level.

Helion Tide Studios was founded in 2007, but Mason didn’t open it until late 2010.

“Most of the time it sounds like noise,” says Susan jokingly, of the house and the music producer. Mason spends so much time producing, “But I know he has a lot of talent, and we support him all the time.”

Mason’s abilities span much farther than his home studio. He recently took on the role of DJ with a friend under the moniker Two Tone, at Rockland’s Nightclub in St. Catharines every other Thursday.

Besides opening his own studio, Mason also released a music video for his song “Blink Blinking” in 2010. Christian Wiebe, a 21-year-old filmmaker from Fenelon Falls, Ont., took on the task of creating Mason’s first music video. Having known Mason for about five years, Wiebe spared no time in proposing collaboration.

Bryan says the experience was “incredibly positive to your work. ‘’

The video, which was shot with absolute creativity and skill, is now in the works of Mason, Wiebe and their friends, was released in the fourth quarter of 2010.

“So far Mason shows me signs of slowing down. The support I’ve received from his family, friends and fans keep him going,” he says.

“Take Photo”, one of Mason’s closest friends says he is dedicated to what he does.

“In 10 years Bryan will have pierced his name in the public.”

Mason says, “Aside from making me incredibly happy, appreciative and ultimately excited about my future, it’s also a huge motivator to see people react positively to your work.”

With so much accomplished and so much more planned for the future, Mason says he is going to give himself the next few years to make it impact the world music industry.

“You see accomplishments as only as fruitful as you make them.”

The shot was taken by Bryan Mason.

Mason says he learned to play the guitar with Lyle and Lyle’s friends.

In his teens Mason went on to play in various local metal bands, eventually the band he started with his band called Never the Nile, spending a lot of their time recording music and scoring other and different studies in the Niagara region.

“I love doing this that has interest in the behind-the-scenes action of recording come about.”

Raycroft sparsely interview after shadowing every one of the recording sessions,” says Mason. “Before I knew it, I had a lot of software and knowledge that I learned to try, so I took some initiative and started learning how to produce my own music from scratch.”

After Kevin Bile, separated Mason said most of his gear and moved the rest of his time into scoring a regular job. With enough money saved after a 10-month, Mason built himself “a ridiculously expensive PC to start my own recording studio.”

Within a year of producing his own songs and remixing those of other artists, one of Mason’s remixes of a song by a famous DJ and producer in the United Kingdom was noticed and then released on a compilation disk.

Mason says the experience was “incredibly motivating” for him.

“Some of the coolest things I’ve seen recently are a whole of independent electronic artists making it in their musical influences,” Mason says. “Aside from making me incredibly happy, appreciative and ultimately excited about my future, it’s also a huge motivator to see people react positively to your work.”

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Bryan Mason

DJ & MUSIC PRODUCER

Jordan Raycroft

SINGER/SONGWRITER

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“You see accomplishments as only as fruitful as you make them.”
Musician Stevie Wonder once said, "We all have ability. The difference is how we use it." Two Port Colborne students are hoping to use their abilities to make a difference in Africa this summer. Arden Bull, a Grade 12 student, and Carly Richardson, a Grade 11 student, both at Port Colborne High School, are planning a trip to the Maasai Mara region of Kenya but still need to raise the money to get there. They will be travelling through the Me to We organization. Me to We was founded by brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger in partnership with Free the Children, the "world's largest network of children helping children through education." The students will be responsible for helping to build a school and a water system in a local community. Although they have already paid their deposits, they still need to raise $4,000 each to participate in the three-week trip beginning on June 30. The duo is also planning more fundraisers throughout the year to reach their goal including a Kenya-themed dinner and a raffle. Anyone wishing to help can email Bull at ardenbull_77@hotmail.com or Richardson at carly_y_2323@hotmail.com.

The concert will take place Feb. 26 and will feature local musicians. "We all have ability. The difference is how we use it." Two Port Colborne students are hoping to use their abilities to make a difference in Africa this summer. Arden Bull, a Grade 12 student, and Carly Richardson, a Grade 11 student, both at Port Colborne High School, are planning a trip to the Maasai Mara region of Kenya but still need to raise the money to get there. They will be travelling through the Me to We organization. Me to We was founded by brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger in partnership with Free the Children, the "world's largest network of children helping children through education." The students will be responsible for helping to build a school and a water system in a local community. Although they have already paid their deposits, they still need to raise $4,000 each to participate in the three-week trip beginning on June 30. The duo is also planning more fundraisers throughout the year to reach their goal including a Kenya-themed dinner and a raffle. Anyone wishing to help can email Bull at ardenbull_77@hotmail.com or Richardson at carly_y_2323@hotmail.com.
Jan. 21, 2011

By KRISTEN SPRUIT  Staff Writer

As part of their involvement with the organization, the Niagara College women’s basketball team presented Wells of Hope board member Harry Alexander with a $100 cheque, a donation from the college’s Student Services Department, on Dec. 9.

Wells of Hope, founded in 2004, consists of many volunteers from the Niagara region who are working to provide the basic necessities for poor regions in Guatemala. In particular, the focus is on bringing clean water to rural villages in the Jalapa region by digging wells.

A sister program is Packs of Hope, which in the last four years has delivered 7,500 backpacks filled with supplies, and in the last two years, 8,000 filled shoeboxes to children in Guatemala.

Team coach Ron Lemon became interested in the organization in about three years ago after his wife travelled to the region to volunteer with a group of dentists for two weeks. There was a need for skilled labour, service and supplies.

Lemon says around Christmas time the team likes to do something with the money they’ve collected from their basketball camps.

Three years ago the team donated $500 to the Wells of Hope organization. For the past two years the team has collected backpacks to donate to the Packs of Hope project.

“I didn’t know how this was going to go over, but everyone seemed to remember the backpacks, so we’ll keep it going. It doesn’t cost anything but time,” says Lemon.

Lemon and Alexander have volunteered in the region in Guatemala three times. He says donating backpacks is a simple way of helping out.

“Any way our team can give back is great. Obviously it’s [backup packs are] something that we all have, we all go to school and have left-over bags,” says basketball player Whitney Jackson.

“It just feels good as a team to see the kids walking down the road with their backpacks, on their way to school, and you know you were sort of a part of that process, it’s pretty neat.”

“The need is there, and people open their arms to help out in any way they can.”

Packs of Hope sent a shipment of 3,000 backpacks in 2010 and are planning to send a second shipment in early 2011. Lemon and the women’s basketball team are hoping to contribute at least 100 backpacks.

“We take things for granted here, and something simple like a bag and the goodie we put in it, like toothpaste and a toy, means nothing. But to people over there, it makes their year,” says basketball player Amanda Peppit.

“Might our team can give back is great. Obviously it’s [backpacks are] something that we all have, we all go to school and have left-over bags,” says basketball player Whitney Jackson.

“It just feels good as a team to know we’re doing something.”

For more information about the projects, visit wells3ofhope.com.

By STEPHANIE NIKITA  Staff Writer

The John Deere Welland Works facility closed down in November 2009, and with it Welland saw a loss of more than 800 jobs.

Now, there are talks of a buy-out of the facility and, former mayor Mayor Barry Sharpe?

What now, Mayor Barry Sharp?

Potential for 300 renewable energy jobs to come to Welland’s closed John Deere facility

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What now, Mayor Barry Sharp?
Accredited Construction Engineering Technology program:
Laying foundations to build successful careers

By SHAWN SMITH
Staff Writer

With the post-secondary education system always expanding, few programs can be considered unique to any given school in Ontario, but Construction Engineering Technology here is one of the few to hold the distinction.

The three-year program readies students for many employment opportunities in the engineering field. Some of these include construction managers, inspectors, surveyors and structural detailers.

Paul Weerdenburg, co-ordinator of the Construction Engineering Technology program, says that the diversity the program offers is one of its key features.

“One of the strengths of the program is that we don’t have a particular strength. We ready students for many different fields. We ready the students for all aspects of the engineering field.”

The program is accredited by the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, and in 2010 the program received accreditation from the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists.

This was a huge boost for students because it further solidifies their legitimacy to the workforce. With this accreditation, it means that students can apply for their Civil Engineering Technician certification after only two years in the workforce.

The other requirements are a three-year diploma, a professional practice and a practice report – all of which students receive as part of the program.

Weerdenburg credits laptop integration as one aspect that makes the program unique.

“When I started here [in 1995], computer applications and AutoCAD were done in a computer lab. With laptop integration we’re able to go a lot more in-depth.”

The laptops are leased from the college for the duration of the students’ stay in the program. Weerdenburg says they chose this route so that everyone would be on a level playing field and all software would be legal and properly licensed. As well, if students come across a problem with their computer, they can take it to the computer maintenance department and have it fixed or replaced free of charge.

Weerdenburg credits local employers in the area for their support of the program. The sixth and final term of the program requires students to take part in a work placement.

“We have a number of employers in the area who participate in the program. They try to expose the students as much as they can to what it will be like as a junior starting out in the workforce. They usually take a placement in the part of the field they want to pursue. If they want to be a building inspector, they can do their placement with the city,” says Weerdenburg.

The success rate of the program speaks for itself. Weerdenburg says those who want employment out of the program almost always find it.

“I’ll say 100 per cent employment. The stats might change, but I only take those who want to work.”

Many of the students are able to find work directly out of their placement but if they cannot, the program informally helps the students find work.

“We’ve always had very good support from local employers. If an employer calls in saying they are looking for a worker, we keep the students’ contact information and get hold of them.”

“We still have employers calling in September after graduation, but by then the best students have found employment.”

Jesse Meyer, 19, is a first-year student in the Construction Engineering Technology program, and says that although the work load is quite heavy, he has learned a lot.

“There is a really heavy course load and it is definitely hard trying to manage everything at one time. It’s a lot of work, but I think it’s going to be worth it,” says Meyer.

Although the program offers many career options, the AutoCAD aspect of the course is what has particularly interested Meyer. AutoCAD is a designing program that offers users the ability to digitally design what it is they are working on through the computer.

“The use of laptops is nice. I’ve been enjoying the drawing and AutoCAD aspects.”

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“The use of laptops is nice. I’ve been enjoying the drawing and AutoCAD aspects.”
Knights lose hard fought battle
Geneseo defeats Niagara 70-64 in exhibition game

By EMMA RUSSELL
Staff Writer
The Niagara College Knights women’s basketball team broke their 4-0 home record winning streak when they lost 70-64 in an exhibition game to the Geneseo Community College Cougars on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

The Knights played an exhibition game against the Cougars in December and had a 92-73 loss.

“The women were off to a good start this year with the first basket scored by centre Whitney Jack- son. The Cougars quickly got the point right back and led the rest of the game. Niagara’s fifth-year forward Kaityn McKenna scored 16 points during the game, trailed closely by Kaitlyn McKenna scored 16 points and another is hurt. Five-foot two-inch guard Anita Cloutier showed a lot of hustle as she out-ran the visiting players of Geneseo down the court. The Knights’ defence helped them keep the score close during the second half.

“Our defence played really good,” said forward Shelby John- ston.

Johnston got nine points by the end of the game.

Lemon said the game plan for the night was to play good defence and to “take care of the ball.”

The Knights now have a 4-12 exhibition record. They will start this year with the 4-0 home record winning streak. The Cougars quickly got the point right back and led the rest of the game. Geneseo defeated Niagara 70-64 in exhibition game on Nov. 11, 2010.

Knights guard Anita Cloutier (No. 5) defends the ball from Humber’s Sainney Carvery during a game on Nov. 11, 2010.

Photo by Sam Gino

Intramural athletics begin a new term at both campuses
Hockey, basketball, dodgeball, floorball, soccer highlighted

By MATT GIBSON
Staff Writer
Imagine the glory, the attention and the atmosphere one can create by scoring a game-winning goal on a breakaway in overtime. Imagine sweat blurring your vision as you line up a rainbow jump shot with seconds left on the clock.

Very few of us will ever have the opportunity to experience those scenarios at the professional level, but Niagara College’s intramural sports programs allow anyone a glimpse of glory.

From September 2010 to December 2010, the college offered all sorts of intramural sports programs including soccer, ball hockey, arena football and ultimate Frisbee.

This semester, from January 2011 to April 2011, Niagara Col- lege’s Welland campus will be offering the following intramural sports: ice hockey, three on three dodgeball, floorball and dodgeball.

The majority of intramurals scheduled to take this ever- semester are free; however, there is one exception. To play ice hockey, each player must pay a fee of $50, and the team must consist of at least 12 players.

Each player must pay the fee, but one student can register an entire team. Unfortunately, the deadline to register for ice hockey passed last month because of limited space, but the opportunity to register for April and other intramural sports still stands.

Drew Olah, a third-year Elec- tronic Engineering Technician student at the college, seems to think interest in hockey may be dwindling.

“We were not able to find a goalie, so we never got a team,” says Olah.

He says not being able to put a team together was disappointing.

If you find putting a team of 12 together, plus having to rely on a goaltender too difficult, there are intramural sports not demanding a dozen available players.

Floorball will require five play- ers plus one goaltender to register. Dodgeball will require six play- ers to register and three on three basketball allows more than three players to register per team, mean- ing substitutions are allowed.

Olah says putting an ice hockey team together was most important and challenging. He says based on the wide variety of choices avail- able to students he can focus on building a different type of team.

“I may try to get a soccer team together this year, depending on my schedule,” says Olah.

Chris Kourounis, a first-year New Media Web Design student, says his awareness of intramural sports at the college last semester was close to “non-existent.”

“I knew very little about intra- murals, but I found out you could put an ice hockey team together this year. Although I have not done that, I have thought about it all the other possible courses I want to take,” says Kourounis.

He adds if you “put a little thought into it” and “really look into it,” your perception of intramurals may change and your willingness to participate may increase.

Floorball, dodgeball and three- on-three basketball will be played at the newly renovated Welland campus. However, the Niagara-on- the-Lake campus has a list of its own intramural sports to offer.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake campus Fitness Centre hours are Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and weekends noon to 5 p.m. To sign up for intramurals, you must register. Forms can be printed off at http://www.niaga- raknights.ca/sports/intramurals. html#welland or picked up in the athletic department on campus.

The Welland campus Fitness Centre is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends noon to 5 p.m.

“I knew very little about intramurals, but I found out you could put an ice hockey team together this year.”

— Chris Kourounis

The campus will be offering table tennis (ping pong), dodge- ball and cricket tournaments, co- ed indoor soccer, badminton and men’s and women’s four-on-four basketball.

Last semester the campus also offered European handball, co-ed volleyball and ball hockey and aerobic exercise classes.

If you are apprehensive about joining an intramural sports pro- gram because you feel a lack of skill, note the following.

“Students may engage in self-directed activities such as badminton, aerobic class, vol- leyball, basketball, indoor soccer, beach volleyball and table tennis any time during open gym hours. Participation and enjoyment in a non-competitive environment are emphasized.”

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Community raises funds for Alzheimer’s

7th annual Walk for Memories in St. Catharines hopes to raise $50,000

By KIMBERLY SMITH
Staff Writer

Fifty-seven Ontario communities will be participating in this year’s Live Right Now, an initiative co-hosted by Memories, including the Niagara region. The walk raises funds and awareness for the incurable disease.

The seventh annual Niagara Region Walk for Memories will take place on Sunday, Jan. 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines.

Alzheimer Canada estimates that 450,000 people – or one in 13 people over the age of 65 – have some form of dementia. It is an incurable, degenerative and terminal disease that affects someone with more than just memory loss.

Mary Schulz, national director of Alzheimer’s Canada, says, “This is an insidious disease. Most people associate memory loss with Alzheimer’s, but it’s so much more. Sudden changes in mood, misplacing common household items [like keys in the refrigerator], repeating words or statements or difficulty with everyday tasks like getting dressed can all be warning signs.”

The Niagara Region Alzheimer Society provides many services to family members, to caretakers and to individuals affected by the disease.

Chelsey Cook, special events coordinator, says the money raised goes directly to the client services programs, which include the family support programs, crisis management, the transportation program and caregiver support groups.

Cook says 200 people participated in last year’s event and $47,000 was raised.

The goal for this year’s walk in St. Catharines is $50,000, with the provincial goal being $1.8 million.

“So far the walk has continued to grow year after year in both fundraising and the number of participants. The long-term goal is to run the event simultaneously in all three malls in the region: St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland,” says Cook.

Gregory Miller, a Niagara College Public Relations Graduate Government, says, “I chose the walk for the event he must help plan as a part of his program.

“Specifically, I have been recruiting teams, putting up posters and trying to raise awareness about the event,” says Miller.

He says he participated in Walk for Memories two years ago with his family to raise money and participate as a team.

“It was a great experience. We had a lot of fun and it felt good to be helping out such a worthy cause. This experience is part of why I chose the event this year,”

Like 36 per cent of Canadians, Miller knows someone affected with Alzheimer’s disease.

“The event is important to me because I never got to know my grandmother, and she never got to raise money, allowing family and friends the chance to take a day out to actually honour a loved one that they may have lost, or even those that are still with them, is extremely important to the society,” says Cook.

Members of the public are encouraged to get involved in the event up until the day of the event, registering either as an individual or as a team.

Anyone interested in participating or sponsoring a walker can find more information at www.walkformemories.ca.

YMCA encourages healthy living choices

Six-month campaign designed to promote healthy lifestyles

By SABINE DUNAC
Staff Writer

Niagara’s YMCA dares locals to Live Right Now.

YMCA, CBC and Canada’s leading health and wellness organizations have teamed up to challenge the country to take part in a six-month national campaign called Live Right Now. The initiative will run from January to the end of June.

The CBC, along with local YMCA centres and the Live Right Now’s advisory board committee, is motivating the country to live more healthy lifestyles by promoting awareness and helping Canadians to make smart and healthful choices.

“The Live Right Now advisory board consists of Breakfast for Champions, the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Overweight and Obesity Network, Dietitians of Canada, the Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and ParticipACTION, and is partnered with President’s Choice Brand and the Ontario Medical Association.

Brian Bratt, general manager of community engagement of the Niagara YMCA, says, “We are proud to be a part of the program. It’s a great resource for our members. We feel we can help what the CBC is trying to accomplish.”

The CBC will be using all its media platforms – CBCNews.ca, CBC Radio and CBC Television – to promote and to inform the country about the national program. By the first week of January, the CBC had full-week coverage on the state of health in Canada.

A report done by the Niagara Region Public Health Department called Overweight and Obesity in the Niagara Region, says, “From 2001 to 2005 combined, 54.7 per cent of respondents in Niagara had a [body mass index] BMI in the overweight or obese range.”

“A further 1.9 per cent of respondents were considered underweight, leaving less than half of Niagara’s population with a BMI in the healthy range.”

“The whole country can benefit from making healthier changes. Hopefully, a six-month campaign will have a bigger impact,” says Thida Ilith, media relations manager of Dietitians of Canada.

Niagara residents can join the initiative by signing up on the LiveRightNow.ca website.

It is an online social network that connects communities across the nation. It is designed to give individuals tools to help them achieve healthier lifestyles.

The website features useful tools such as recipes, the million-pound nationwide pledge challenge, daily fitness challenges to encourage individuals to make small changes, blogs written by health professionals and more. Those who join will receive a two-week trial membership.

This is just one of the promotions that will be offered for the campaign, and there will be more events and promotions in the future.

Facts about Alzheimer’s

• It is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain, causing thinking and memory to become impaired.

• It is unknown what causes Alzheimer’s disease or how to stop its progression.

• Symptoms of the disease can be similar to symptoms of other conditions such as depression, thyroid or heart disease, infections, drug interactions or alcohol abuse.

• The population of Canada continues to age dramatically as the baby boomers reach 60. Alzheimer’s disease is the second most feared disease by Canadians as we age.

• Today, half a million Canadians have Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia. Approximately 71,000 of them are under age 65.

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Faith-teaching stays modern

Pastor uses contemporary methods for church services

By EDEN ARMSTRONG Staff Writer

Out with the old and in with the new. Central Community Church in St. Catharines offers the teachings of the Bible with a fresh twist.

Bill Markham, 41, lead pastor, has been with the church for more than nine years. He worked as the associate pastor until two years ago when he became lead pastor. Markham is married and has three children: Rebellion, Tessa, and Garrett, who is in Grade 6.

Markham says the church believes in the three Cs – care, connect and create – and through their three locations in St. Catharines they spread their teachings. Each site – the Scott Street, downtown St. Catharines and Pen Centre site – has its own live worship band and pastor, but the message is the same.

Their idea is to incorporate new media into their services in order to bring different from the churches people are used to going to.

When you walk into the Scott Street site, you are welcomed over and over again. As you walk in, there are giant screens and a stage set up to play what would seem a full set at any rock concert. As the service starts, the music begins and it is hard to find a seat in the full house.

The band, including a drummer and bass player, play the words to the songs are displayed onto the large screens.

Markham comes on the stage, welcoming all, including guests. He talks to the crowd and while reading passages from the Bible, throws in real-life experiences that help to make everything come together in today’s context.

YouTube, viral videos and texting are also used as ways to help define and understand teachings from the Bible in today’s culture.

With a team of staff and volunteers, the church produces a service unlike any other.

It has a print and publication department handling its monthly magazine, The Loop. The production department takes care of the stage design, and the media department produces video for each service. The worship arts team, headed by Greg Skyes, provides music for the services with a full band.

There is something for everyone at Central Community Church, whether you are five or 85.

As a youth leader at Central, Mi- chael Idzenga, 20, says the church tries to stay up to date with what is modern.

The idea is to come to a place that is cool while also learning about the teachings from the Bible,” says Idzenga, who has gone to Central since he was a child. He attends Brock University for Concurrent Education with a major in biology.

The youth group at Central brings together young people from Grades 7 to 12 every Wednesday night to learn about God while experiencing different activities like media, drama and music.

Central also makes a huge effort to give back to the community. With the initiative of families who attend the church, they have built orphanages and dormitories for children in Africa, Guatamala and Asia as well as working with non-profit organizations to give to local charities such as Community Care and Hannah’s House in Niagara Falls.

“It isn’t about us,” says Markham. “We were made for greatness.”

The church’s website, www.centralcommunitychurch.ca, and its Twitter and Facebook accounts are only some of the ways to stay connected.

Submitted photo

Museum volunteers celebrate the season and reminisce

By SAM CINO Staff Writer

The Lincoln and Welland Regimental Museum volunteers came together for holiday cheer at their annual Christmas party on Dec. 2.

Held at the elite St. Catharines Club in the downtown area, volunteers from vehicle maintenance and static displays in the museum enjoyed a fun-filled evening of another one’s company and spirited discussion over dinner and drinks, with the fireplace providing some welcome warmth.

“We’ve been outside in the cold all day moving some new items we acquired,” says Terry McMillan, Lieutenant-Colonel Jeff Cairns began the evening with a toast to the Queen and summarized where the museum had been at the start of the year and where it plans to go in 2011. He also toasted to the Lincoln and Welland Regiment and to the 10th Battery Artillery. He also voiced his opinion on starting on 1812 reenactment and tribute group that would be a part of the museum. He also had a surprise for volunteer Victoria Viroge.

“I understand it’s a special girl’s 20th birthday today,” shouted Cairns, who led the entire dining room in a roasting performance of “Happy Birthday”.

Viroge turned a bright shade of crimson.

“Victoria, that’s a good colour for you. It matches my shirt,” said her father, Derek.

At dessert time, there was much jealousy, as the guests who ordered the apple pie were surprised.

“It was good, but not what I expected,” says one guest, who wishes to remain anonymous.

“My son wouldn’t share his ice cream,” says Helen Viroge. “I think I’m going to return his Christmas gifts,” she joked.

Former and current military members who belong to the museum shared many stories.

“One time I had to tow a truck that had sped off the highway and landed in some trees,” says Richard Bucko.

“When I got to the trees, they were over 30 feet tall and there was no way I could get the truck down without destroying it entirely. It was, naturally, a write-off.”

In his thirties about writing a book about all his memories he used many quotes from Christianity and Islam to make his point.

“Baha’i is will not exalt their faith above others,” he says.

He says, “We can do more than tolerate people. We can understand people. We can accept people… If you don’t try to understand and accept people, you look at them in a very superficial way.”

Rev. Dr. Prince Conteh has regularly held these panels. However, according to Sheryl Johns, manager of Student Services, the chaplaincy service on campus has been cancelled.

Johns also says that, “Although we will no longer be offering on-campus chaplaincy services in a formal way, the Student Services Division will continue to support students through our links and resources in the Niagara faith community.”

Panel promotes understanding of religions

By STEPHANIE AZEVEDO Staff Writer

Adverse opinions were joined in one room, but that was hardly any cause for alarm.

On Dec. 7, 13 people met at the Welland campus, to discuss faith and tolerance in a panel featuring representatives from Christianity, Islam and the Baha’i Faith.

Each was given 20 minutes for a presentation, after which a question period followed.

The questions were asked first of panelists and next from audience members.

Professor David Goicoechea represented Christianity in his presentation on the intolerance of Protestants to their Catholic counterparts.

He explained that the 90 theses of Martin Luther were really “the- ses of hate” because of the way they denounced many of the things Catholics love, such as “Mary, monotheism, mysticism, popes and the seven sacraments.”

Goicoechea says, “Catholics are thankful to Protestants for getting them to think about bad popes, weak philosophies and the guilty notions of purgatory and its recon- ciling ways.”

Hasaan Ahmed was up next to present on Islamic tolerance. He focused on the importance of scholarship in Muslim countries, saying, “A lot of the differences between Sunni and Shia come from differences in wording [in the Qur’an]. You can read the exact same text and come to very different conclusions.”

During the question period, Ahmed said, “A lot of the tolerance in Islam has been overlooked because of a few bad seeds. There’s a lot of propaganda, agandas, in terms of the media. [Extremism] is in every religion.”

Mehdi Wolf was last with a slide show. As he represented the Baha’i Faith, which is founded on a belief of acceptance for all religions, he used many quotes from Christian- ity and Islam to make his point.

“Baha’i is will not exalt their faith above others,” he says.

He says, “We can do more than tolerate people. We can understand people. We can accept people… If you don’t try to understand and accept people, you look at them in a very superficial way.”

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Submitted photo

Lead pastor Bill Markham wanted to be a history teacher but found his true calling in the church.

The museum volunteers meet on Thursdays at the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Museum just north of Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake or at the “Chicken Barn” at the end of Carlton Street and Townline Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Mehdi Wolf presented the Baha’i Faith’s opinions during the faith and tolerance panel on Dec. 7.

Photo by Stephanie Azevedo
Silver lining for IceDogs goalie

Mark Visentin opens up about his experience on Team Canada

By JEFF BLAY

Staff Writer

It was a short trip from St. Catharines to Buffalo, N.Y., for Team Canada World Junior goaltender Mark Visentin, and although the tournament was in the United States, the 18-year-old puckster felt right at home.

“It was amazing, a ton of fun from the hotel out,” Visentin laughs. “Playing games in front of almost 20,000 rocking Canadian fans was an unreal experience. It was a really big thrill to be out there and have our whole nation behind us on American soil.”

Canada went into the tournament with what head coach Dave Cameron said to be “a blue-collar team,” with the United States being the tournament favourites.

Along with the support of his family and friends, the backing he has from the IceDogs’ fans and organization has been a huge part of Visentin’s success.

“You can’t look too far ahead. You have to take things day by day and game by game.”

Visentin

“You can’t look too far ahead. You have to take things day by day and game by game.”

Visentin

“Having our fans in Niagara supporting both me and the team is huge, and having them behind us for the rest of the way is going to make things a lot easier and a lot of fun.”

After playing his first full season with the IceDogs in 2009-2010, Visentin was ranked fourth among North American goalies by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau, and was eventually selected by the Phoenix Coyotes in the first round (27th overall) of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft.

Only one other goalie was picked in the first round, and that was American World Junior nemesis Jack Campbell, who was selected 11th overall by the Dallas Stars.

Visentin was one of two goalies named to the team. Visentin was ranked fourth among North American goalies by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau, and was eventually selected by the Phoenix Coyotes in the first round (27th overall) of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft.

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